

Appln. Serial No. 09/715,753
Amendment Dated February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action Mailed December 16, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 16, 2004, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0033563 (Niemela); claims 5 and 14 were rejected under § 103 over Niemela in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,487,065 (Acampora); claim 6 was rejected under § 103 over Niemela in view of Acampora and U.S. Patent No. 6,711,143 (Balazinski); claims 7, 9, 11, and 12 were rejected under § 103 over Niemela in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,469,994 (Ueda); and claim 8 was rejected under § 103 over Niemela in view of Ueda and U.S. Patent No. 5,974,036 (Acharya).

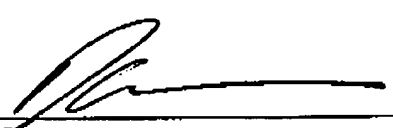
Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 2-4, 10, 13, 15-18, 20-27, and 37-43.

Claim 1 has been cancelled, without prejudice, to render the rejection of the claim moot. Dependent claims 5, 7, and 14 have been amended to depend from allowable claims, and therefore are now in condition for allowance.

Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (NRT.0080US).

Respectfully submitted,

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